

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, claims 1-7, 8-13, 15-20, 23-28, 30-33, 35-38, and 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,664,985 to Bormann et al. In addition, claims 7, 14-15, 21-22, 29, 34, 39, and 42-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bormann et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,768,552 to Jacoby.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent that they are maintained. In this paper, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 13, 23, 27, 33 and 40, and Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Now turning to the subject office action, and in particular, to the rejection of independent claim 1, this claim generally recites a method of managing computer hardware components. The method includes displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display, where the pictorial representation is associated with a plurality of hardware components and represents a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components, and indicating a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that such indication of a selected status is performed in response to user input.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner relies on Bormann, and in particular, Fig. 4 and col. 3, lines 21-26, for allegedly disclosing the indication of a selected status for multiple hardware components on a pictorial representation of a plurality of hardware components. However, it should be noted that Fig. 4 does not disclose a pictorial representation within

Page 12 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132US1
WH&E IBM/155
K:\ibm\155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd

the context of claim 1. Claim 1 defines a pictorial representation as representing "a physical configuration of each of [a] plurality of hardware components." Fig. 4 of Bormann, on the other hand, discloses what is more properly characterized as a block diagram of a plurality of hardware components, as each component is represented as a block, with interconnections between components being represented by lines extending between the blocks. The physical look, as well as the relative physical placement, of individual components in the block diagram of Fig. 4, is not represented.

In addition, the components highlighted in Fig. 4 of Bormann are not selected in response to user input, but rather are highlighted to indicate various alarm conditions (see col. 3, lines 21-26, cited by the Examiner, as well as col. 4, line 55 to col 5, line 11). Given that alarms are associated with individual components, it should be evident that the fact that different components are highlighted in Fig. 4 of Bormann does not indicate a selected status for those multiple components in response to user input.

Bormann, perhaps more relevantly, discloses at Figs. 5-6 "secondary windows" that arguably can be characterized as pictorial representations of hardware components (see col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 12). Fig. 6, for example, displays front and back images of a component of a distributed switch processor, including a display of the relative locations of slots in the component.

It is important to note, however, that neither of these figures disclose the indication of the selected status of multiple hardware components. In both figures, the multiple instances of highlighting are actually different depictions of the same component (note in Fig. 6 that the highlights are both associated with the component in slot 13). Furthermore, this highlighting is based upon alarm conditions, which as noted above, are not analogous to a "selected status" in response to user input (see col. 4, line 55 to col 5, line 11).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Bormann fails to disclose the indication of a selected status of multiple hardware components on a pictorial

Page 13 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132US1
WH&E IBM/ISS
K:\ibm\155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd

representation in response to user input, as is recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore novel over Bormann.

Furthermore, claim 1 is non-obvious over Bormann as there is no suggestion in the reference, or elsewhere in the prior art, of the desirability of providing the ability for a user to select multiple hardware components and have the selected status of such components displayed on a pictorial representation. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as of claims 2-22 which depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Next, with respect to independent claims 23 and 40, each of these claims has been amended similarly to claim 1, and now recite the indication, in response to user input, of a selected status for multiple hardware components in a pictorial representation. Claims 23 and 40 are therefore novel and non-obvious over Bormann for the same reasons as presented for claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims, as well as of claims 24-39 and 41 which depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Next, with respect to independent claim 42, this claim recites, *inter alia*, the concept of performing at least one management operation on multiple selected hardware components in response to user input directed to a portion of a pictorial representation that represents the physical configuration of one of the multiple selected hardware components.

The Examiner relies on Bormann, and in particular, col. 6, lines 28-36, for allegedly disclosing the performance of a management operation on multiple selected hardware components in response to user input directed to a representation of one of such components in a pictorial representation. The cited passage, however, merely discloses that multiple windows can be concurrently viewed by an operator, and that an operator can perform multiple maintenance tasks. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the cited passage does not disclose performing a management operation on multiple selected hardware components, much less the performance of such an operation in response to

Page 14 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132US1
WH&E IBM/ISS
K:\bmk\155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd

user input directed to a depiction of one of such selected hardware components. Put another way, there is nothing in Bormann that discloses the performance of a single management operation that affects multiple components. Likewise, there is nothing in Bormann that discloses a management operation that affects multiple components in response to user input directed to a depiction of one of such components.

Jacoby, which is cited by the Examiner merely to support the notion of distributing components among multiple computers, does not add anything to the rejection. In particular, Jacoby does not disclose the performance of a management operation on multiple hardware components in response to user input directed to a depiction of one of such components in a pictorial representation.

The Examiner has presented no objective evidence of a motivation in the art to modify Bormann to incorporate support for a management operation that affects multiple selected hardware components. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 42 is non-obvious over Bormann and Jacoby. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 42, and of claim 43 which depends therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

As a final matter, while Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejections of the various dependent claims based upon their dependency upon the aforementioned independent claims, Applicants wish to address a number of dependent claims that recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

For example, claims 5 and 27 recite *inter alia* the comparison of attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion, and selecting those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion. Furthermore, each of these claims have been amended to additionally recite that the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection.

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner argues that double clicking a component to open a secondary window in Bormann (as described at col. 4, lines 40-45) is analogous to

Page 15 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132US1
WH&E IBM/155
K:\ibm\155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd

selecting a filter criterion and selecting those hardware components having attributes matching that criterion. It is apparently the Examiner's position that opening a secondary window for a particular component, which results in the display of sub-components of that component, operates much the same as a filter criterion.

While Applicants disagree that the display of a secondary window is analogous to a filter criterion, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 27 to clarify that the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after the selection. Thus, even under the Examiner's reading, where a secondary window shows selected components, Bormann would still fail to disclose this claimed concept as each component displayed in the secondary window would necessarily be "selected."

Applicants' claimed filter criterion, on the other hand, is capable of displaying components that meet a filter criterion amongst other components that do not meet the criterion, with highlighting used to indicate which of those components meet the criterion. This claimed configuration is simply not disclosed or suggested by Bormann, and as a result, claims 5 and 27 are novel and non-obvious for the additional reasons presented herein.

Next, with respect to claims 13 and 33, each of these claims has been amended to recite the performance of a management operation on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input. As with claim 42, these claims were rejected based upon the passage at col. 6, lines 28-36 of Bormann. As noted above in connection with claim 42, however, Bormann fails to disclose the performance of a management operation on multiple hardware components. Accordingly, claims 13 and 33 are additionally patentable for many of the same reasons as presented for claim 42.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner

Page 16 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132USJ
WH&E IBM/155
K:\bm\155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd

selecting a filter criterion and selecting those hardware components having attributes matching that criterion. It is apparently the Examiner's position that opening a secondary window for a particular component, which results in the display of sub-components of that component, operates much the same as a filter criterion.

While Applicants disagree that the display of a secondary window is analogous to a filter criterion, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 27 to clarify that the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after the selection. Thus, even under the Examiner's reading, where a secondary window shows selected components, Bormann would still fail to disclose this claimed concept as each component displayed in the secondary window would necessarily be "selected."

Applicants' claimed filter criterion, on the other hand, is capable of displaying components that meet a filter criterion amongst other components that do not meet the criterion, with highlighting used to indicate which of those components meet the criterion. This claimed configuration is simply not disclosed or suggested by Bormann, and as a result, claims 5 and 27 are novel and non-obvious for the additional reasons presented herein.

Next, with respect to claims 13 and 33, each of these claims has been amended to recite the performance of a management operation on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input. As with claim 42, these claims were rejected based upon the passage at col. 6, lines 28-36 of Bormann. As noted above in connection with claim 42, however, Bormann fails to disclose the performance of a management operation on multiple hardware components. Accordingly, claims 13 and 33 are additionally patentable for many of the same reasons as presented for claim 42.

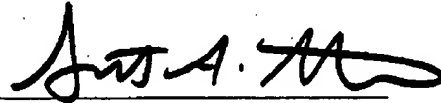
In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner

Page 16 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132US1
WH&E IBM/155
K:\bm155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd

may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

7 JULY 2004
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Scott A. Stinebruner
Reg. No. 38,323
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.
2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Telephone: (513) 241-2324
Facsimile: (513) 241-6234

Page 17 of 17
Serial No. 09/659,258
Amendment and Response dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004
IBM Docket ROC920000132US1
WH&E IBM/155
K:\bm155\Amendment and Response to 4-7-04 OA.wpd